Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a washing machine according to the present invention and FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of a washing machine according to the present invention. The washing machine shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2 adopts a front loading type but is as good as a [[to]] top loading type washing machine except that a tub 20 and a drum 30 are horizontally installed. For convenience of explanation, the present invention is described for the front loading type washing machine but is applicable to the top loading type washing machine the same manner.

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] The valve assembly 100, as shown in the drawings, includes a valve 110 installed at the inlet or ventilation opening 21 or 22 (hereinafter called opening) and a guide installed in the opening 21 or 22. The valve assembly 100 can be ~~dir3ctly~~ directly installed on an inner circumference of the opening 21 or 22. Preferably, the valve assembly 100 is installed in an extension pipe 21a or 22a formed at the opening 21 or 22. In such a valve assembly 100, the valve 110 is installed movable upward and downward in the opening 21 or 22, and the guide 120 is installed to guide the movement of the valve 110. The valve 110 should be smaller than the opening, and more specifically, than the extension pipe 21a or 22a so as to enable the water and air to flow via the opening 21 or 22 as well as so as to move smoothly. Moreover, the valve 110 is formed greater than a diameter of the corresponding pipe to cut off the inlet or ventilation pipe

21b or 22b (hereinafter called pipe). In other words, the diameter of the pipe 21b or 22b can be designed to be smaller than a size of the valve 110 to be cut off by the valve 110. Furthermore, in order for the valve 110 to cut off the pipe 1b or 22b more stably, the diameter of the pipe 21b or 22b is preferably reduced in the vicinity of the opening 21 or 22. For this, the pipe 21b or 22b may have a rib 24 lying in the vicinity of the opening 21 or 22. The rib 24, as shown in the drawing, extends inward in a radial direction from an inner circumference of the pipe 21b or 22b. Moreover, the pipe 21b or 22b, as shown by a dotted line in FIG. 4A, may be a corrugated pipe or a bellows pipe. Such a pipe includes a multitude of folds 24a resulting in reducing the diameter like the rib 24. Hence, the valve 110 moves to be brought contact with the rib 24 or folds 24a to securely cut off the corresponding pipe 21b or 22b.

Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] The plate member 130 cuts [[of]] <u>off</u> the opening 21 or 22 and the extension pipe 21a or 22a so that the airflow fails to reach the valve 110 directly. Yet, since the plate member 130 partially cuts off the opening 21 or 22 and the extension pipe 21a or 22a, the water supply via the inlet opening 21 and the airflow via the ventilation opening 22 are smoothly performed. The plate member 130, as shown in FIG. 7A and FIG. 7B, is preferably a disc type matched to a shape of the valve 110 approximately. Moreover, in order to cut off abrupt airflow and to detour the airflow from the valve 110, a size of the disc member 130 is preferably equal to or greater than that of a bottom of the confronting valve 110.

Please replace paragraph [0047] with the following amended paragraph:

[0047] Meanwhile, a frictional [[fore]] force between the hub 121 and the shaft part 112 is substantially increased due to the second elastic member 112a, whereby the valve may fail to move smoothly. Hence, in order to reduce such a frictional force, the inner circumference of the hub 121, as shown in FIG. 8A and FIG. 8B, us preferably tapered by a predetermined angle. Namely, an inside diameter of the hub 121 gradually increases to be greater than an outer diameter of the shaft part 112. More preferably, in order to facilitate the valve 110 to move upward and downward, the inside diameter of the hub 121 gradually increases toward its top. In case that the inside diameter of the hub 121 increases only, a gap is generated between the inner circumference of the hub 121 and the outer circumference of the shaft part 112. Yet, the valve 110 may unnecessarily ascends by the airflow flowing in via such a gap. Preferably, the outside diameter of the shaft part 112 gradually increases to be brought contact with the inner circumference of the hub 121. In case that the inside diameter of the hub 121 increases toward its top, the outside diameter of the shaft part 112 increases toward its top as well. Hence, if an initial frictional force between the shaft part 112 and the hub 121 is just overcome, the shaft part 112 enables to ascend freely by the foam without influence of the additional frictional force.